

REMARKS

As a preliminary, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner for the personal interview which was held on July 13, 2006.

By the present amendment, claims 1, 6, 20, and 23 have been amended to clarify that the ultra opaque sheet is a printable sheet, and that its opacity index is more than 92. Support for this recitation is found in the original application, for example, on page 8, lines 22-23, and claim 2.

Further, claims 2, 12, 22, and 26 have been amended to recite an opacity index of at least 94. Support for this recitation is found in the original application, for example, on page 10, Table 1.

Also, claim 25 has been amended to depend on claim 24 instead of claim 23.

Claims 1-7 and 9-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 20, and 23 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 3,839,074 to Taylor ("Taylor").

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 1 and 6, it is submitted that the pigmented cellophane used in Taylor is not a "paper based on cellulose fibers" as recited in present claims 1 and 6.

For illustration and confirmation, the following Exhibits A-E are submitted:

- Ex. A: definition of “cellophane” in Dictionary of Paper and Paper-Making Terms, N.V. Swets & Zeitlinger, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1937 (“not a paper in the accepted sense of the word”),
- Ex. B: definition of “cellophane” in The New Britannica/Webster Dictionary and Reference Guide, 1981 (“thin transparent usually water-proof material made from cellulose”),
- Ex. C: definition of “cellophane” in Smook, Handbook of Pulp & Paper Terminology, Pingus Wilde Publications, 2nd Edition, 2001 (“transparent film of regenerated cellulose”),
- Ex. D: description of “cellophane” in Organic Chemistry, Allyn and Bacon, 3rd Edition (explaining chemical structure of cellulose),
- Ex. E: definition of “paper” according to International Standard ISO 4046-3 (“made by deposition of... fibres... from a fluid suspension...”)

Thus, the cellophane of Taylor is not a “paper based on cellulose fibers.”

Further, with respect to claims 20 and 23, Taylor is completely silent regarding (i) a precoat of coloured opacifying pigments and (ii) one or more white pigmented coats.

In addition, Taylor uses an aluminum-colored pigment, whereas the present invention uses “white pigmented coat” as recited in present claims 1, 6, 20, and 23.

Further, with respect to the dependent claims, it is submitted that Taylor completely fails to teach or suggest the combined features of the respective dependent claims. In particular, with respect to claim 3, it is submitted that Taylor, which uses an aluminum pigment, fails to teach or suggest a whiteness index as recited in present claim 3.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by GB 1,427,485 ("GB'485").

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is also respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 1 and 6, contrary to the interpretation set forth in the Office Action, GB'485 only discusses "synthetic paper," i.e., plastic sheets, and not "paper based on cellulose fibers" as recited in present claims 1 and 6. Thus, in GB'485, both the "paper of the present invention" and the "comparative paper" exemplified in the Table on page 6 are made from a stretched polypropylene sheet (see GB'485 at page 5, line 47-56). More precisely, Comparative Example 1 uses a "sheet" (GB'485 at page 6, line 1) which is clearly the same polypropylene substrate as Example 1 since its treatment is performed "after stretching" (GB'485 at page 6, line 3), and Comparative Example 2 uses a "comparative paper" which is also clearly the same polypropylene substrate, since its treatment is performed "after the transverse stretching" (GB'485 at page 6, line 36).

Further, with respect to claims 20 and 23, GB'485 uses a single coating on its stretched substrate. In particular, in the embodiments of the Examples, a double-ply plastic film with a first film of substantially clay, diatomaceous earth, and polypropylene, and a second film of substantially clay and polypropylene, is covered by a single coating of substantially polyethyl acrylate and antistatic agent (see page 5, lines 47-70). As a result, GB'485 completely fails to provide a suggestion or motivation to use (i) a single ply of a plastic film, with (ii) a precoat of

coloured opacifying pigments, and (iii) one or more white pigmented coats, as recited in present claims 20 and 23.

In addition, with respect to the dependent claims, it is submitted that GB'485 completely fails to teach or suggest the combined features of the respective dependent claims. In particular, with respect to claim 3, GB'485 fails to teach or suggest a whiteness index as recited in present claim 3.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In summary, the features of the presently claimed invention, i.e., a coloured opaque support made from a single ply of paper based on cellulose fibers, said support being coated on at least one of its faces with one or more white pigmented coats, as recited in present claims 1 and 6, or a coloured opaque support made from a single ply of a plastic film covered by a precoat of coloured opacifying pigments, said support being coated on at least one of its faces with one or more white pigmented coats, as recited in present claims 20 and 23, can have significant advantages, for example, it is possible to obtain easily a highly opaque sheet, without using the complex and expensive multiply substrates of the prior art, as explained in the present specification. These features and advantages are not taught or suggested in the cited art.

In this respect, it is noted that Comparative example 1c in the present specification is not an admission of prior art, i.e., Comparative example 1c was prepared by the present inventors. Comparative example 1c provides an illustration that the results of the presently claimed invention are completely unexpected based on the teachings of the prior art. Specifically, the

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features of the presently claimed invention were not reached when the conventional steel blade coating method of Comparative example 1c was used. Comparative example 1c shows that a coloured single ply paper coated with a white pigmented printing-writing coat using this conventional coating method results in a sheet with insufficient uniformity and printability (see experimental results in Table 1 on page 10 of the present specification). Thus, not only the prior art completely failed to even remotely suggest using a single ply sheet to obtain high opacity, but also, comparative example 1c shows that the results of the present invention could not have been obtained using a conventional steel blade coating as in Comparative example 1c. In other words, the presently claimed invention is completely unexpected based on the cited prior art, without the benefit of the disclosure in the present specification.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

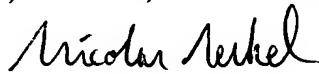
If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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